

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated:

1. (currently amended) A system for establishing a level of security in a personal computer having a memory and a stored operating system, the system comprising:

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a variable security profile generated automatically when the system is turned on ~~and reflecting features including the~~, said variable security profile specifying a variable number of unsuccessful power-on password attempts ~~[[and]]~~ permitted based upon at least one other factor chosen from time of day, day of week and security level of authorization of the user; and
allowing or denying use of the personal computer to the user based on the security profile.

2. (original) A system for providing security in a personal computer including the elements of claim 1 wherein the security profile includes a log of the access attempts for the personal computer and the results of each attempt.

3. (currently amended) A system of the type described in claim 2 wherein the variable security profile can be altered to a less secure state only by a system owner through the use of a password different than the password of the user.

4. (currently amended) A system of the type described in claim 3 for improving security of a personal computer wherein the variable security profile can be altered to a more secure state by a normal user.

5. (currently amended) A system for providing computer security including the elements set forth in claim 4 where the variable security profile includes a plurality of binary indicators have a more secure state and a less secure state, and a normal user of the computer system may change at least one of the binary indicators from a less secure state to a more secure state.

6. (original) A system for providing computer security including the elements set forth in claim 5 wherein a user with a security password may change at least one of the binary indicators from a more secure state to a less secure state.

131 7. (currently amended) A method for providing improved security in a personal computer having an operating system and a security profile stored in memory, the steps of the method comprising:

automatically generating a variable security profile with indications of greater or lesser security when the personal computer is turned on, wherein the variable security profile reflects features including the specifies a variable number of unsuccessful power-on password attempts [[and]] permitted based upon at least one other factor chosen from time of day, day of week and security level of authorization of the user and storing the variable security profile in the personal computer;

using the variable security profile to determine what access, if any, a normal user will be permitted to have to the computer system; and

allowing the normal user to change the variable security profile from a level of lesser security to a level of greater security but denying the normal user permission to change the variable security profile from a level of greater security to a level of lesser security.

8. (currently amended) A method for providing security in a personal computer including the steps of claim 7 and further including the step of allowing a privileged user with a security password to change the variable security profile from a level of greater security to a level of lesser security.

9. (currently amended) A method of providing security in a personal computer including the steps of claim 8 and further including the steps of updating the variable security profile in response to a security risk.

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10. (currently amended) A method of providing security in a personal computer including the steps of claim 9 and further including the step of responding to an attempt to open a cover of the personal computer and indicating the security risk associated with the attempt to open the cover in the variable security profile.

11. (previously canceled)
